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Bob Perry

From:

"Bob Perry" <mosesp@worldpath.net>

To:

"Bob Perry" <mosesp@worldpath.net> Monday, November 02, 2009 6:43 AM

Sent: Subject:

Fw: Remarks

---- Original Message -----

From: Bob Perry
To: Bob Perry

Sent: Sunday, November 01, 2009 11:15 PM

Subject: Remarks

Members of the committee, and for the record:

I speak for myself, but perhaps others would not disagree.

Election 2000 was alarming. It's aftermath even more so. Sometime in 2004, and acting as a concerned citizen, I called the Secretary of State's Office and stated with conviction that I possessed no confidence in the legitimacy of the upcoming election. I had the benefit of speaking with Anthony Stevens, who I did not know at the time, who assured me no touch-screen machines would be involved in Election 2004 in NH, and provided other assurances that temporarily alleviated my concerns.

During the summer of 2006, I was profoundly moved by the documentary *Hacking Democracy* - not just the Hursti Hack hosted by one of the most trusted election supervisors, Ion Sancho, Leon County, Florida, but to include the letter of Wally O'Dell, CEO of Diebold, boasting delivery of the 2004 election to George W. Bush; the minus 16022 votes cast for Al Gore in Volusia County, Florida; the denial by Diebold of the existence of a "living thing" on the memory card, the executable program; original vote tallies tossed in the trash in violation of federal law; the rigging of the recount in Cuyahogo County, Ohio. History has revealed extensive frauds perpetrated on the American voter. I am very concerned about the proposed purchase of Diebold Election Systems by a private corporation, ES&S, whose true ownership eludes the public, and which merger will perpetuate the secret programming of 75 percent of the votes that will be cast in the midterm elections. Aware that trusting others is a fundamental aspect of every elections process, I also know trust has limits. I remain opposed to the secrecy of the current system.

However, I have come to understand that as of this writing, October 31, 2009, even the many election-integrity groups across the country and the federal government are debating the future of elections systems without agreement. Though the work of this committee is known nationally, only one vendor demonstrated a next-generation ballot-counting device, and it was a prototype that may or may not meet the criteria set out within this committee's RFI.

I have observed over the last year during approximately 15 meetings that

members have been sincere and unbiased in their efforts to prepare for our final report to the Secretary of State's office. I am particularly thankful for the scores of hours expended and the sincerity extended by Acting Chair, Tom Manning, Anthony Stevens, and Dan Cloutier, whose broad general knowledge and technical expertise was essential, and who were more than accommodating with regard to selection of expert witnesses and to the wishes of the committee. I thank Colleen for providing high-quality Minutes of sometimes very technical discussions and for being so generally helpful. Lastly, I thank the members of this committee for allowing me to present the entirety of *Hacking Democracy*, which was important to me, serving as a baseline for understanding the seriousness of our charge.

By way of the opinions of the many experts who spoke, concluding last Friday with Andrew Appel, PhD., computer expert at Princeton, it is apparent that, in the immediate future, a necessary check on the integrity of the current and future generations of ballot-counting devices is a comprehensive random audit of sufficient statistical value to deter and identify fraud. Such check is supported by the Secretary of State's office.

As is so painfully evident by the recent massive election fraud perpetrated on the people of Afghanistan, honest elections go to the heart of democracy; and democracy is the gateway to everything else. I trust the recommendations of this committee will be seriously considered and implemented.

Bob Perry, house member, H.B. 285.

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